**REMARKS**

The Office Action has been carefully reviewed. No claim is allowed. Claims 3, 17, 19 and 21-23 presently appear in this application and define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are hereby respectfully solicited.

The personal interview with Examiner Li on November 30, 2006, is gratefully acknowledged. The undersigned wishes to thank the examiner for the courtesies extended at the interview.

The scope of the mammalian T-cell lineage promoters in the transgenic construct and the phenotype of the transgenic mouse was discussed. The examiner also raised her concern that in claim 17, it is unclear what glucocorticoid-related effect is assayed. The arguments and amendments discussed at the interview are incorporated into the amendments to the claims and arguments presented in this communication.

Claim 17 is amended to make clear that the candidate compounds are screened for the ability to induce apoptosis in thymocytes. As disclosed on page 93 of the specification, the thymocytes of the transgenic mouse have an increased apoptosis level and an increased caspase-3 activation. Therefore, the thymocytes of these transgenic mice are more sensitive to

apoptosis and can serve as a tool to screen for compounds that induce/enhance apoptosis in thymocytes.

New claim 22, which recites for the phenotype of "accelerated, increased caspase-3 activation", is supported by the present specification at page 93, lines 6-7 and at page 16, lines 5-9, where it is disclosed that an elevated level of GILZ (GILR) expression results in an alteration of caspase-3 activation.

Claims 3, 4, 17-19 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

This rejection is obviated by the amendments to the claims. Claim 3 is amended to recite for a human CD2 promoter and a human CD2 locus control region operably linked to a mammalian GILZ cDNA sequence. The phenotype of decrease in CD4+ CD8+ double positive cells and increase in CD4- CD8- double negative cells and CD8+ single positive cells is found in both young and aged transgenic mice (see specification, paragraph [00278]).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 4, 17-19 and 21 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention, to the extent that claimed composition and/or methods are not described in the disclosure. This rejection is also obviated by the amendments to the claims.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. §112 and define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Favorable consideration and early allowance are earnestly urged.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

By /ACY/
Allen C. Yun
Registration No. 37,971

ACY:pp
Telephone No.: (202) 628-5197
Facsimile No.: (202) 737-3528
G:\BN\S\Ser1\RICCARDI1A CIP\PTO\2007-01-05amendment.doc